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1. Q. What degree of latitude is given to professors in Polish institutions of higher learning to teach their specialized subjects?
- A. Speaking of branches of the Exact Sciences (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry), of Technical Science, of Natural Science to which has now been added the Science of Medicine and Biology, it may be said that the Professors are permitted to work in relative freedom. Make no mistake however, they must know and cite as frequently as possible whatever Soviet publications they were given and are ordered to apply Soviet methods, but the control exercised by the Party is rather small. The situation is completely different however, when dealing with the field of Humanistic, Social, and Economic Sciences. Philosophy, Literature, History, Law, Sociology and Economy, all these are branches of science subjected to such a strict control that nothing except maybe a few articles, once in a great while a book, repeatedly revised and corrected, are authorized for publication. In the past three years only about ten books in the field of all branches of law have appeared in circulation. These books have no scientific value whatever. They are merely citations taken from the classic Marxist as well as Soviet authors or they are citations from the laws and regulations now in force. The same holds true for the other branches of science mentioned above. A Professor of Law, for instance, will write something by request from the desk of a monthly review because he cannot afford to refuse the request. His manuscript is revised, corrected, changed, shortened or enlarged without his consent by the Communist editors. If he objects he will be considered anti-Marxist. It is true that some form is observed; for example, a draft of changes proposed is sent to the author, but if he fails to agree with the editors the operation is made anyway, even without his consent. It is impossible for a person in Poland to publish books on his own hook since the allotment of paper would be a prerequisite and a private individual would never obtain it. Only a State institution or a Cooperative has the right to publish. Furthermore every institution of this type is compelled to send four copies of the manuscript of a book not only to the Police Censorship Office but especially to the Ideological and Professional Censorship Office. There are specialists approved by the Party or by the competent Ministry who will give their opinion on the projected book. One may well say that they impose the greatest difficulties in the clearing of a manuscript. As a result the books just do not appear on the market. Another cardinal reason why books in this field fail to make their appearance is that the professors refuse to list and publish the results of their scientific research in the Communist and Marxist style. They abstain from every effort to publish anything. They work and write in line with the widely accepted slogan "into the desk drawer", waiting in the meantime for better times when publications will be free again.

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2. Q. Is it possible for Polish students by their own merit to obtain a higher education? What are the prerequisites for entrance to institutions of higher learning?
(a) Political? (b) Academic?

- A. In order to be admitted to the higher schools of learning (Universities, Polytechnic Schools, Academies of Fine Arts, High Schools of Music etc.), a certain number of requirements must be filled. Candidates are divided into three categories. The first category consists of the sons of industrial workers, of farm workers and members of the Party. The second one comprises the children of parents who gave outstanding service to "Socialist Poland" and the third category consists of children of parents belonging to the "working intelligentsia", in other words government officials, employees, professors, teachers etc. To a very small degree, good marks received by students in secondary schools also find consideration. The candidates are primarily registered by a Recruiting Commission attached to the secondary schools. The ratings given by the ZMP and by the principal of the secondary school are attached to the record. The respective file composed of a large number of questions and answers then goes to the Recruiting Commission of the Town or the District. There the Party representative plays the leading role. The file goes through channels until it reaches the Recruiting Commission of the Voivode, which then sends all the dossiers to the school of higher learning, that is, the school the candidate intends to attend. These dossiers contain, above all, political opinions with regard not only to the candidate himself but also and particularly with regard to his father, mother and other relatives. If he happens to be related to a "capitalist" he is naturally at the end of his rope. If he has spoken derisively to his colleagues about the regime, the ZMP, the standard of living in Poland, delations to that effect will be noted in his dossier. For each school and for each faculty the Ministry provides a total number of available seats. The candidates will be subjected to an admission examination. However, the final admission of the candidate is decided less by the result of the examination than by his belonging to one of the three categories cited above. If the allotment of available seats is exhausted, the candidates who passed the examination with good marks may be sent to another faculty where there are still seats available. And it happens quite frequently that candidates for study in one branch of science are assigned to a quite different one.

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3. Q. Approximately what proportion of the faculties of Polish universities are loyal to the regime?
Of the remainder of the Polish intelligentsia?

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- A. About 85% of the professors do not belong to the Communist Party. In Krakow, Faculty of Law, of 22 Professors and Assistant Professors only two Assistant Professors were members of the Party. The same holds true for all faculties in all of Poland except the universities of Warsaw and Lodz where the percentage of Communists is higher. But on the other hand, there are also faculties, for instance in the Academies for Medicine, or in the polytechnical schools where you cannot find one single professor who is a Party member. But none of the professors may say anything against Marxist ideology and method; likewise they are not allowed to say anything unfavorable about the political features of the government nor against Soviet politics. At the Humanist faculties, on the other hand, all professors are forced to teach in line with Marxist directives. They do so with very little sincerity, thereby leaving in students' minds few doubts as to their teacher's real feelings about the matter. Real study, however, is carried on outside of study halls. Everyone of the professors assembles around him a group of students he trusts to whom he teaches real science.

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